

“Marks of a True Leader,” Part 3 - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 – February 19th, 2017

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series I've titled, "Marks of a True Leader."
- One of the things that many of us appreciate about the Apostle Paul and those like him is that they're not afraid to tell it like it is.
- They're able to do this because they do not concern themselves with what other people think of them, or if people will like them.

Galatians 1:10 (NKJV) — 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Proverbs 27:6 (NKJV) — 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

- The reason he is so blunt with them is because he wasn't a man pleaser but a friend who was willing to speak the truth to them.
- If Paul didn't love them and care so deeply for them, he wouldn't even bother writing to them, and just leave them to their folly.
- However, that's not who Paul is. Paul is a loving leader who becomes an example to us of what a true leader is and even does.

5. They are willing to do the hard thing (Verses 13-15)

- v13 Paul speaking of false teachers says they are false apostles and deceitful workers who masquerade as Christ's apostles.
- v14 He tells them that they shouldn't wonder why, because they, like Satan himself masquerade as an angel of light to deceive.
- v15 He says' it's not surprising that in masquerading as servants of righteousness, their end will be what their actions deserve.

- What's interesting about what Paul says here is he not only warns them about false teachers, he tells them how to spot them.
- To me, this is one of the true marks of a true leader. They have the spiritual spine and holy boldness to expose false teachers.
- It's important to note Paul repeatedly throughout his epistles had warned the churches even going as far as naming the names.

2 Timothy 4:14–15 (NKJV) — 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

3 John 9–10 (NKJV) — 9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. 10 Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.

2 Timothy 2:16–18 (NKJV) 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

- What Paul says here actually answers the question of why he's so blunt and harsh, such that he' dealing with spiritual cancer.
- As with any cancer spreading throughout the body, it must be quickly cut out of the body, lest it spread and become terminal.
- What's interesting about this cancer analogy is cancer cells spread proportionate to the dividing and attacking the healthy cells.

Here's how one cancer website explained it. "Cancerous cells divide uncontrollably. Usually they form a lump of tissue called a tumor. ...Things can get much worse, however, if the cancer becomes malignant and spreads. This happens when a single cancerous cell breaks away from the main tumor and starts growing and dividing elsewhere in the body. To do this, it must acquire more mutations that allow it to survive in other parts of the body. For a cancer cell to spread, it must be able to do two things that the normal cell it grew from could not: First, it must be able to leave its usual environment and travel through the blood or lymph system, a process called invasion. Second, when it arrives at its new location, it must be able to make new blood vessels grow around it and supply it with oxygen and nutrients, a process known as angiogenesis. The whole process of a tumor gaining new mutations as it divides and then spreading to other parts of the body is called metastasis."

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerandresearch/all-about-cancer/what-is-cancer/how-does-cancer-make-you-ill/>

- It's for this reason scripture is replete with the blunt and harsh commands of cutting out and kicking out of these divisive people.

Titus 3:9-11 NIV But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. (10) Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. (11) You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

- If you were to ask me why I thought Christians are tolerant of false doctrine and false teachers my answer would be, naïveté.
- By that I mean that Christians in large measure are very naïve, in the sense that they are not grounded in the Word of God.
- As such, they're vulnerable and susceptible to the false doctrines from false teachers whom they so readily accept and tolerate.

One commentator wrote, "Mad dogs are shot; infectious diseases are quarantined; but evil teachers who would divide to their destruction and draw away the saints with teaching contrary to the doctrine of Christ and His Apostles are everywhere tolerated!"

- It should come as no surprise Paul is describing these false apostles they were tolerating as masquerading servants of Satan.
- The reason I point this out is that a naïve and gullible Christian is no match for the devil when he appears as an angel of light.
- While Satan may tempt us in other forms, it's his masquerading as an angel of light that I believe is his most successful of all.

I'll close with a quote from Adam Clarke, who I think sums it up best this way, "It is generally said that Satan has three forms under which he tempts men: 1) The subtle serpent, 2) The roaring lion, 3) The angel of light. He often, as the angel of light, persuades men to do things under the name of religion, which are subversive of it.